

## Eliminating The Social Security Retirement Offset



One of my legislative priorities this past session was to eliminate the discrimination our senior workers face if they are injured on the job. Many seniors collecting social security retirement, a federal benefit to which they contributed their whole career, have found it insufficient to sustain a living. Their choice is to return to work, only to find that if they are injured at work, their social security offsets their entire work compensation award. No other pension or retirement benefit offsets workers' compensation. This practice devalues our seniors and the work they do. I am proud we eliminated this unfair offset. This legislation protects our working seniors and ensures that a senior injured on the job will receive their rightful workers' compensation benefits. **(PA 06-84)**

## Toll-free Connection for Benefits and Services

Now, active duty military personnel, including guardsmen, and their families can call a toll-free number to obtain information about available benefits and referrals to the proper sources for providing benefits and services.

The **toll-free number** is: **1-800-827-1000**. It will be staffed by employees of the Department of Veterans' Affairs and trained volunteers on weekdays during the regular work hours and on holidays and weekends from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.



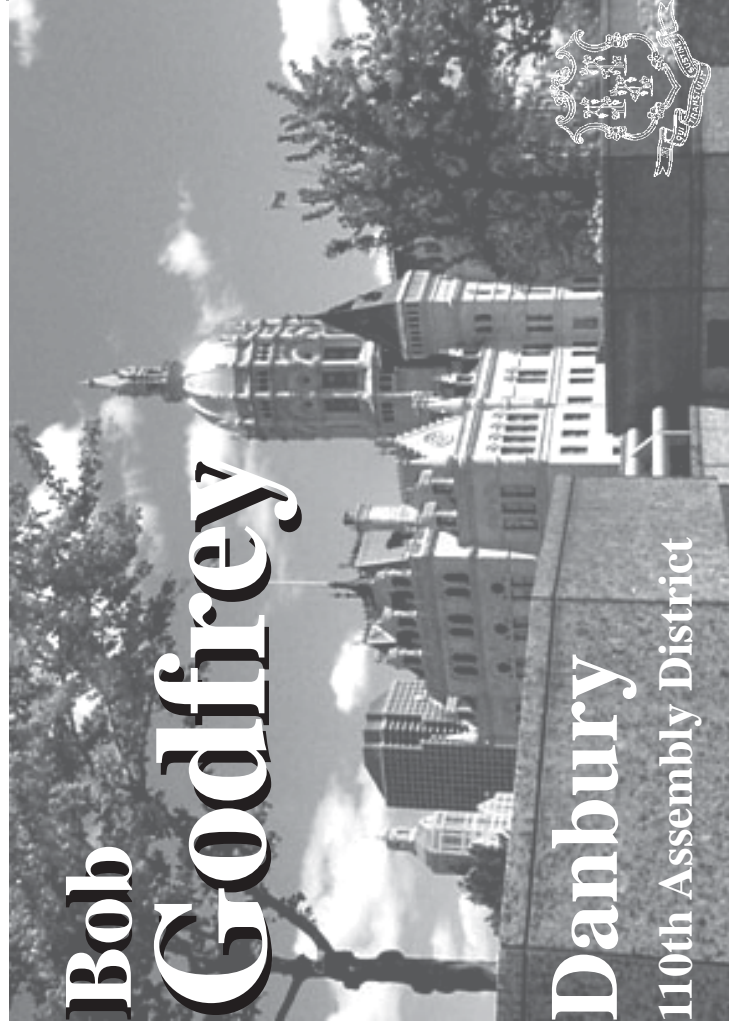
### Bob Godfrey - Representing Danbury

Legislative Office Building, Room 4107  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591  
At the Capitol: 1-800-842-1902 (toll free)  
At Home: 778-5127  
E-mail: [Bob.Godfrey@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Bob.Godfrey@cga.ct.gov)

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Bob Godfrey  
State Representative  
110th District

## CAPITOL NEWS FOR SENIORS AND VETERANS



Dear Neighbor,

As part of our national celebrations of Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Independence Day, I was proud to see the first-ever awarding of the Connecticut Veterans' Wartime Service Medal. As a proud Navy Veteran, I was happy to see this legislation implemented. So here's my report on veteran and senior issues.



# Seniors and Veterans



## Connecticut Veterans' Wartime Service Medal



In recognition of the service of our veterans, we created the Connecticut Veterans' Wartime Service Medal for all veterans who were residents of the state when called to active duty, or who are currently residents in the state.

Eligible veterans may request the Wartime Service Medal by submitting an application form to the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, accompanied by a DD214 Form or other documentation, to prove eligibility. Application forms are available from the department's website at [www.ct.gov/ctva](http://www.ct.gov/ctva) or by calling 1-866-928-8387, Extension 5915. Applications may also be obtained at the department's district and satellite offices, or from my office.

All veterans who submit applications for the Wartime Service Medal will also be added to the Connecticut Service Member and Veteran Registry. The registry is used to notify veterans about benefits and other important service-related information. The information contained in the registry is not subject to public disclosure.

## LISTENING TO YOUR NEEDS

### Caring For Our Seniors

All seniors deserve our help when facing serious health issues. Providing our seniors with the appropriate programs and assistance is very important to me. This past legislative session, I supported **Public Act 06-188**, which expands funding and service programs for the elderly. These programs include:

- ◆ Addressing the deficiencies in the Medicare Part D program by providing funds for non-formulary drugs if it is medically necessary.
- ◆ Paying claims for prescription drugs for dually eligible clients who are denied coverage because the drug is not on the plan's formulary.
- ◆ A new long term care comprehensive needs assessment performed by the Commission on Aging. The assessment will determine the unfulfilled long term needs and will project future demands for services.
- ◆ Expansion of the state-funded elderly PCA Pilot from 150-250, to allow seniors to hire their own attendant instead of having to go through a home health agency.
- ◆ A hold on the nursing home rate at 3%.

These new programs will help out seniors while we continue to work on additional legislation to create even more much needed services.

## Property Tax Exemption for Disabled Veteran's



After October 1<sup>st</sup>, veterans' disability payments will no longer count as income when determining eligibility for income-based property tax exemptions for veterans, the blind, and people with total disabilities.

Reservists or members of the Connecticut National Guard, when performing duty under Title 32 of the United States Code, are now eligible for veterans' benefits. This is a small way to say **"thank you"** for the sacrifices you have made on our behalf.

(PA 06-153)

## Respect for our Flag

Although most of us would assume the national flag could be lowered to half-staff any time the state flag is lowered following the death of a Connecticut member of the armed forces in the line of duty, it turns out there was no state law dictating such policy. As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, our law will clearly state that the national flag will be flown at half-staff for the same period as the state flag, following the death of a member of the armed forces on active duty. I am proud to have co-sponsored this bill. (PA 06-138)



*I would like to hear from you . . . . 1-800-842-1902 at the Capitol - Bob Godfrey*